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Atty. Dkt. No. 054804-0101

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ladlow et al.
Title: PARALLEL REACTION
STATION WITH MAGNETIC
STIRRING
Appl. No.: 09/509,147
Filing Date: 05/25/2000
Examiner: B. Gordon
Art Unit: 1743

<p>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date below.</p> <p><u>Jeanine Richardson</u> (Printed Name)</p> <p><u>Jeanine Richardson</u> (Signature)</p> <p><u>March 1, 2005</u> (Date of Deposit)</p>

RESPONSE TO REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Examiner included a Statement of Reasons for Allowance in the Notice of Allowance. The Examiner stated: “[t]he prior art of record does not teach nor fairly suggest the adaptor block and magnetic stirrer as claimed by the applicant. See Board of Appeals decision 09/28/2004.” Applicants wish to clarify any ambiguity in this statement.

While the Examiner has stated that the prior art does not teach “the adaptor block and magnetic stirrer”, Applicants respectfully point out that independent claim 1 does not claim a magnetic stirrer. Claim 1 reads:

A device comprising an adaptor block for seating on a laboratory magnetic stirrer and having a recess in a base thereof for receiving an upper portion of the stirrer, the adapter

block containing fixing means for holding a plurality of reaction vessels, wherein when the adaptor block is co-operatively positioned on a magnetic stirrer within a magnetic field, with the center of each vessel distributed around the recess outside the periphery of the recess.

Thus, claim one is directed to a device which includes an adaptor block, but does not include the limitation of a "magnetic stirrer." This is consistent with the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences' opinion (see, e.g., page 12).

If the Examiner disagrees with Applicants' statements or wishes to discuss them, Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact their representative Michael Rechtin (312-832-4586).

Respectfully submitted,

Date March 1, 2003

By Michael D. Rechtin

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